

I'm fairly certain that Lt. Col. "Russ" O' Connell was the same that the parents knew; not seeing him before he died has remained a regret of mine if not a personal failure--I think I talked to him sometime in the 2010's--I think he wanted to see me, too, but I was near-broke--on the skids, so couldn't get to VA.

I had no idea how old he was until now. We'd go over to the O' Connells when we lived in MD--like you used to do when you were kids, you'd visit people, before everyone got crazy and no one visited anyone, anymore, when people only watched television because there was nothing else--there was a photo on the mantelpiece of a kid at the O' Connells; we asked who it was--it was their son who died in Vietnam is what they said--although I certainly remembered that, despite all I heard and read about Vietnam later, I didn't really get it, it's rather impossible, actually--I also didn't know at the time that "Russ" went to Vietnam, too, and if we knew, at the time we wouldn't have understood, we were too young--now I get it; Don't join the military but he was probably drafted, I don't really know to this day but I did find "O' Connell" on the wall years ago, online. "Russ" was an engineer like our Dad; that was the connection--but I was unaware of all the missions Russ O'Connell flew--it was a lot of missions; helicopters I've heard got shot down all the time in Vietnam. Also at the O' Connells was this dude who I remember only for his claiming to have seen every episode of Star Trek--for some reason, that was amazing--he appeared unique, accomplished, cutting edge--but I understand that, too, now--who cares aw

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